

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 9-11, 23-25, 28, 32, 33, and 35 have been cancelled. The claims remaining in the application are 1, 4-8, 12-22, 26, 27, 29-31, and 34.

Specification

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Imaoka et al. (U.S. 6,174,060). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12, 20-32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Imaoka et al. (U.S. 6,174,060). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims of the present invention, as amended, are clearly distinguishable over the prior art. The claims now specify that the light sources are light emitting diodes (LED). This is significant in that the xenon light source or other light sources used in prior art can not be turned on and turned off frequently on a frame by frame basis. Thus, when used as an image writer, as claimed in the claims of the present invention, the LEDs can be turned on and off rapidly as each frame is advanced. This is significant since the LCD spatial light modulators do not have a good off state, which allows leakage light, which results in image smear. Stated another way, without turning the light source off, there will be a residual image on the LCD spatial light modulators which, as a frame of film is advanced, will cause latent image to be printed on the next frame.

This is in sharp contrast to the Imaoka et al. reference cited by the Office Action. Imaoka et al. is a projection type apparatus and there is no need for extinguishing the illumination between image frames. Stated in another fashion there is no need in Imaoka et al. for having an off state between image frames, and with a xenon lamp or other high energy lamps, it would be impractical even if such a need was contemplated in the apparatus disclosed by Imaoka et al.

Thus, Imaoka et al. does not, and cannot, function as the present invention nor would it achieve the same result. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections based on Imaoka et al.

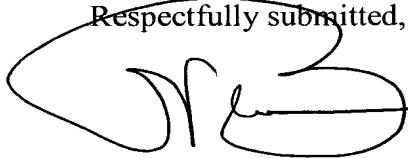
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.